

# MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE THUNDER BAY ATARI ST ENTHUSIASTS

## GOOD TASTE

GOOD TASTE

VOLUME 1

ISSUE 1

NOVEMBER 1987

### ATARI ST USERS GROUP

#### Preliminary Meeting

#### BACKGROUND

Several discussions had taken place in September this year between Ed Giertuga, Neville Denetto, and Roy Stokes regarding the formation of a User Group (UG). A short list of ST owners was obtained from Phil Moorey by Ed. The latter, in turn, phoned those on the list to get their views. The responses obtained indicated that there was a need for a UG. It was therefore decided to call a meeting to initiate the formation of an Atari ST Users Group.

#### MINUTES OF MEETING

Date: Friday, 16 October 1987

Place: Confederation College Aircraft Maintenance Hangar

Time: 7 to 9.00 pm

Attendees: Ed Giertuga Neville Denetto Phil Moorey  
George Kamstra Tom Rogers Jack Devries

#### SUMMARY

The meeting was opened by Neville with a brief explanation of the aims and objectives of the proposed User Group (UG). A questionnaire was distributed; this was followed by a very constructive and useful discussion. As a result, many productive decisions were made.

Ed Giertuga supplied a list of ST owners whom he had contacted by phone. Most of those contacted showed a definite interest in the forming of a UG.

The meeting adjourned at 9.00pm

#### UG Officers:

Neville Denetto : President and Secretary  
Roy Stokes : Vice-President and Treasurer  
Ed Giertuga : Head Librarian & Membership Secretary  
Ed and Roy : Newsletter editors; Public Relations

George Kamstra : Assistant Librarian, Public domain, Share  
ware Programs and documentation.

#### Special Interest Groups

Roy Stokes : Games  
Neville Denetto : Productivity & Utilities  
Music : ( Open )  
Art : ( Open )

Education : ( Open )

#### DETAILS:

##### 1. Membership Fee :

After a lengthy discussion, the following fee structure was agreed to: - \$25 per year, regular members  
- \$15 per year (full-time students)

##### 2. Use of Club Funds :

- bulk purchase of blank disks etc for members  
- newsletters, mailing costs etc

##### 3. Newsletter:

- published monthly. Mailed to members in good standing.  
- newsletters will be exchanged with other selected ST user groups

##### 4. Meetings:

- Once a month, at the Aircraft Maintenance Hangar, Thunder Bay airport

##### 5. Library:

- Ed and George will compile a log of commercial, magazine, public domain and share ware programs based on lists volunteered by members and programs obtained from other user groups.

- the librarians will co-ordinate the distribution of public domain and share ware programs

##### 6. Name for Group:

Ed suggested 3 names:

T.A.G.: Thunder Bay Atari Group

T.A.S.T.E: Thunder Bay Atari ST Enthusiasts

A.S.T.A.: Atari ST Association

Phil and Tom suggested that 'ST' and 'Thunder Bay' or 'Lakehead' should be included in the name.

7. Hardware; Jack would look into the possibility of buying certain items of hardware at reduced rates

8. Technical: Phil has contacts with people who are knowledgeable about technical matters related to computers.

##### 9. Miscellaneous:

- a bulletin board system can be set up at a later date. Ed is quite experienced in this area.

- no door fee will be charged for members attending meetings.  
- an application form, and a questionnaire will be mailed to those who were unable to attend the first meeting.

- an application form will go out to those who attended the meeting.

- Tom, Neville, and Ed mentioned that they will be following up on the contacts that they have in different places.

- Neville brought along a copy of 'REACH', (Review of the Edmonton Atari Computer Hobbyists).

- Ed showed the group various different Club bulletins.

- Phil and Neville will set up a database covering articles and information of interest on the ST. Any input is welcome.

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- a fee of \$2 will be charged for a Club disk; the member provides a blank disk or \$5 the club provides the disk.

(sd.) Neville Denetto 19 October 1987

NEXT MEETING 7.30 pm  
MONDAY, 23rd NOVEMBER

AGENDA  
MEGA ST Demonstration  
PC DITTO Demonstration  
and much more!!!!!!!

LOCATION-CONFEDERATION COLLEGE (AIRPORT)

Please contact: Ed (345-1722); Neville (577-1061); Roy (344-3924) for any further information.

### ST MEETING LOCATION MAP



### THE ADVENTURE CORNER

By Roy Stokes

Title: THE PAWN - A graphic/text adventure

Distributor: FIREBIRD, USA

Welcome to the world of 'ADVENTURING'. If you have never played an adventure game before on your computer, then 'THE PAWN' is one you should consider. The graphics are unsurpassed and the parser - that portion of the program which allows you to communicate with the game - is very good. The text is rich and serves as an excellent vehicle for exploring the many facets of this game.

The packaging is attractive and the documentation will start you off on the right path. Included are 'cryptic hints' which although tedious to enter will provide you with help should you need it.

A particularly enjoyable feature is the ability to move the graphic window away from the text should you so desire, and the attached scrolls contain very useful utilities. The game will play on either a 520ST or 1040ST with either a color or monochrome monitor - those of you who have a monochrome monitor will find the special features to utilize the high resolution mode of your machine a delight. If you have a color monitor you will be stunned by what you see.

It is my belief that this game will provide you with many hours of fun and problem solving. It is not just 'another' game.

HINT: KILL OFF THE ADVENTURER WITHIN THE FIRST 50 MOVES.

Author's note: The above is an example of how I see this column presented. Should you have any suggestions as to format, level of detail, etc. please feel free to let me know - after all, this is your club and this column is intended to provide you with the information you desire. (call 344-3924 after 5:00 pm.)

See you at the next meeting and happy adventuring!

### MIKADON'S ATARI (CANADA) PRICE LIST

#### ST COMPUTERS

MEGA ST4 (4 MEGABYTES OF RAM)	\$3,299.95
MEGA ST2 (2 MEGABYTES OF RAM)	\$2,299.95
1040 ST (INTERNAL 720K DRIVE)	\$1,199.95
520 STFM (INTERNAL 360K DRIVE)	\$ 899.95
520 STM	\$ 599.95

#### DISK DRIVES

SH205 (20 MEG FOR MEGA ST'S)	\$1,099.95
SH204 (20 MEG)	\$1,099.95
SF314 (720K)	\$ 499.95
SF354 (360K)	\$ 299.95

#### MONITORS

SM124 (MONOCHROME)	\$ 300.00
SC1224 (COLOR)	\$ 650.00

#### PRINTERS

SMM804 (DOT MATRIX)	\$ 349.95
SLM804 (LASER PRINTER)	\$2,995.95

#### MODEMS

SX212 (1200B EXT. HAYES)	\$ 169.95
(ABOVE NOT YET AVAILABLE)	

\* Star NP10 Printers @ \$295.00 when purchasing an Atari system, 100 cps in draft mode, 25 cps in NLQ (reg. \$350.00).

Special for Nov.

520 Stfm Package receives free Neochrome and 1st Word Software and manuals (value \$160.00)

Mikadon Computer Engineering Inc. 267 Park Ave.

\* Ask for Dave 345-0706





## EDITORS NOTES.

As you can see we've decided on **T.A.S.T.E.** as the name of our user group, and thus the name of our newsletter **"GOOD TASTE"**.

I hope that this user group will help you get more out of your Atari St computer.

Many of you may not know what a user group does or why they exist.

They exist to educate newcomers and experienced users alike, introducing them to new topics of interest such as desktop publishing, word processing, computer telecommunications, programming, new games etc.

If you have purchased a new piece of software or hardware and need assistance, then you can obtain support from the user group.

Another facet of user groups are demonstrations at the monthly meetings. If you are thinking of purchasing a new product or are interested in an item you have read about, then this is your opportunity to see it in operation and see if it lives up to the manufacturers claims and your expectations.

Regarding demos, at Novembers meeting you will see Atari's new Mega St2 computer, which features a few improvements over the older St models, such as expanded memory, built in clock, improved operating system and eventually the blitter chip (note: Canada's first megas were shipped minus the blitter, but mikadon has assured me that the blitter will be installed free of charge when available. Supposedly megas shipped to various other countries have had the blitters, but Atari couldn't keep up with the demand.)

Also we will be looking at Avant-Garde's new software based IBM emulator PC-Ditto. Although PC-Ditto runs on the slow side, it can still be regarded as a true programming feat seeing that the two computers are very different machines, based on different micro processors, and that the emulation is obtained strictly through software. The best thing I could say about PC-Ditto is that it actually does work.

Besides these two main demos there will be our disk of the month (see article) and a few other surprises.

### Contributors wanted.

Earlier I touched on how a user group can provide you with support, well a user group also requires your support.

This support can manifest itself in a number of ways.

One of those ways is through our yearly membership dues. Producing this newsletter, purchasing public domain and shareware programs for our library, blank disks for purchase by members and other club projects such as a possible BBS in the future will all cost money and therefore dues are important. For those who can pay there membership dues at Novembers meeting it would be appreciated, this will help the club get off to a good start and we will have a receipt book available for this purpose.

Another way of providing support would be participation at the monthly meetings. If you are proficient with a certain piece of software or hardware then you could volunteer to stage a demonstration, participating in conversations and asking pertinent questions can also be very helpful, as answers to your questions can help others as well as yourself in the use of their computers.

The last area of support I would like to mention is contributions to this newsletter. If you use a certain piece of software or hardware tell us about it in the form of a review, tell us why you liked it or for that matter why you didn't like it, and

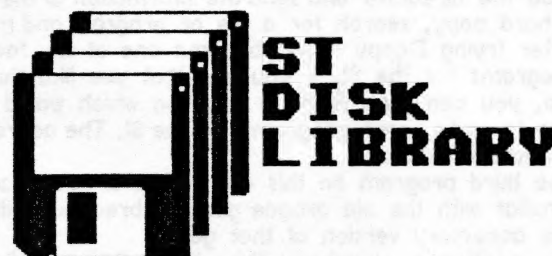
whether you would recommend it. If you have any other ideas for articles or some art work you've created feel free to submit it as well.

Preferably articles should be submitted on disk in the form of a text file created with your favorite word processor and saved in ascii form, as for artwork degas or neochrome format would be fine.

This article was intended to inform you in regards to user groups in general and this user group in particular and I hope that its succeeded in that.

If you have any ideas, comments, or questions I would be glad to hear from you.

Ed Giertuga  
Editor.



### DISK OF THE MONTH

On Novembers disk of the month you will find the following:

Doopy20(folder)-containing Doopy and docs.

StElite 3(folder)-containing the St Writer Elite(gem) Program support files, and docs.

Stwriter.prg-this is ver. 1.75 (non gem)

Breakout.doc-a game accessory program.

Stwr175-additional doc for St Writer ver. 1.75

St writer Elite is the newest version of the St writer program and is the first version which supports gem. I have also included St Writer version 1.75 which appeared in Start for those who prefer it. It is the non gem version and has a slightly different look, the manual which is included is actually for it, but you can find additional notes for St Writer Elite in the readme.doc file.

St Writer is a professional quality word processor ported over from the 8 bit Atari Writer program, which is actually a commercial program. Originally St Writer was to be included with the St computer, but Atari decided they wanted a gem based word processor and so 1st Word.

St Writer is now in the public domain and will work in all three resolutions. In many ways it is more versatile than 1st word. The manual included on this disk is very good and includes a tutorial section.

Also on this disk is Doopy a shareware program by Ralph Walden. Doopy is a utility, a program which helps you do something else. This program was written in assembly language so it is very small and very fast. The latest version is 2.0.

Doopy has always had a built in extraction routine which will easily dearc files onto one disk or from one disk to another for those of you that have a two disk system or you can use a ram disk as your second disk drive. This newest version of Doopy also has the ability to create an arc file.

Doopy is extremely easy to use. When you load it, your screen will fill with letters and numbers. Beside each letter or number will be a short explanation of what that letter will accomplish.

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Even novices do not have to read the directions to try it out, although I do recommend that you do read the documentation included on this disk to get the full use of this program.

As librarian I can appreciate the Z command which allows you to copy one disk to another. Dcopy automatically formats the blank disk the same as the source and then copies all files and folders from the source disk to the destination.

Another handy feature is the T command. As many of you know, word processors do not all add the same type line feeds and carriage returns. That is why if you try to read some files outside the program the words are all run together. The T command allows you to read most files simply by running it through Dcopy. There is no messing around finding the right program or trying to figure out what is on the screen. Dcopy will also send the text file to the printer if you like.

Of course Dcopy will also do many other useful things such as: Format disks, copy files, check the space on your disks, read the directory and send the information to the printer for a hard copy, search for a file or program and much more. After trying Dcopy it has become one of my favorite utility programs for the St. If you find that you like this program too, you can send Ralph a donation which would encourage him to write more programs for the St. The address is in the documentation.

The third program on this disk is the breakout.ace. Those familiar with the old arcade game of breakout, will recognize this accessory version of that game.

As mentioned elsewhere this disk will be available at the meeting for \$2.00 you supply the disk or \$5.00 the club supplies the disk.

Ed Giertuga.

## Front Desk Jottings

If the attendance at the founding meeting held in October was an indication of things to come, we certainly appear to be off to a good start. Since then, the objectives of our group taken as a whole have been more clearly defined. Much more input is needed; we need to know what **YOU** want from your membership in the Club.

The best possible way of doing this is to attend the monthly meeting. This invitation is warmly extended to the members of your family, and any of your friends who are interested in the Atari ST.

Some of the main objectives that we have identified at this stage are:

1. Help members to solve any problems they have encountered.
2. Provide up-to-date information on software applications and availability.
3. Build a library of public domain and freeware programs that will be easily accessible to members.
4. Have the latest information on commercial software readily available to members.
5. Actively assist members in obtaining programs of their choice at competitive rates.
6. Promote the growth and maturing of the Club.

**Roy, Ed, and I are keenly looking forward to hearing from you.**

Neville Denetto



STuff



As you know **Mikadon Computer Engineering Inc.** is the local authorised Atari St dealer, but they are not the only local business which supports the St.

**Key Logo Computer Software** supports the St line of computers through software, printers, discs, paper, ribbons and other supplies. Key Logo is located on 320 Tupper St. Phone 345-8885, ask for Roger.

**Paper Dragons Gaming Systems**, 197 Algoma St. Phone 345-2188 also carries a selection of St software. Paper Dragons specialises mostly in adventure and war games.

For those thinking about getting into computer telecommunications the declining price of modems is making it very affordable. You can now buy 1200 or 2400 baud modems for less than the price of what a 300 baud modem cost a few years ago. As mentioned in Mikadon's ad Atari will soon be selling a 1200 baud modem for \$169.95. Word comes from the Software Showcase earlier this year in Toronto that Supra Corp. will be bringing out their "**Supra 2400**" a 2400 baud modem which is going to retail for approximately \$200.00 (Canadian). The modem is 100% Hayes compatible, comes with similar lights, has a built-in speaker, and metal case.

Interested in Word processing? Besides St Writer which is on our disk of the month you might want to check out **Word Perfect** which is now out for the St. This is supposed to be the ultimate word processor for the St. The files created are compatible with IBM Word Perfect. Features include footnotes/endnotes, gem interface, macros, sort, 115000 word spell checker, virtual memory etc.

Or how about **Timeworks Word Writer St (ver. 2)**, this is the word processor that I use. The latest version features a 60000 word thesaurus and at \$100+ (about 1/3 the price of Word Perfect) it has at least one feature that Word Perfect does not have in its 90000 word continuous spell checker. And then there's **1st Word Plus** which allows you to incorporate St graphics into your document.

The list of good word processors for the St could go on and on. At one time word processing could be considered a weak area for the Atari St computer, but with all the new word processors coming out this is no longer the case.

There's a lot of other new and interesting items that I could report on for the St, but due to space and time considerations I'll say goodbye for now.

Ed Giertuga.

## ABOUT THIS ISSUE

This premier issue of "GOOD TASTE" was created using Fleet Street Publisher. The bulk of the text is in 10 point Sans Serif. Contributing articles for this issue were Neville Denetto, Roy Stokes, and Ed Giertuga. Layout by Ed Giertuga.